IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, and add new Claim 14, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery which includes a plurality of ~~connected~~ cells and is attached to a charger, ~~each of which includes an overcurrent protecting element connected to the cell in series,~~ the battery comprising:

a pair of first electrodes configured to extract electric power from the battery;

a pair of second electrodes which is different from said pair of first electrodes ~~and is configured to charge and discharge each of said plurality of cells individually through the overcurrent protecting element~~; and

a switch configured to series connect said plurality of cells ~~without the overcurrent protecting elements when the battery is not attached to a charger such that~~ to extract electric power ~~can be extracted~~ from the series-connected plurality of cells through said pair of first electrodes when said switch is in a closed state, and configured to electrically separate said plurality of cells from one another ~~when the battery is attached to the charger such that~~ to individually access each of said plurality of cells ~~can be charged individually by the charger~~ through said pair of second electrodes when said switch is an open state,

wherein the charger comprises a charging/discharging unit which charges and discharges each of said plurality of cells individually through said pair of second electrodes, and

wherein said switch changes from the closed state to the open state when said switch is pressed by a projection placed on an attaching portion of either the battery or the charger and the battery is attached to the charger, and said switch changes from the open state to the closed state when the battery is detached from the charger.

2 to 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the battery is a battery pack in which said plurality of cells are assembled.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A rechargeable battery system comprising:

a battery which includes a plurality of cells; and

a charger to which the battery attached,

wherein said battery comprises:

a pair of first electrodes configured to extract electric power from said battery;

a pair of second electrodes which is different from said pair of first electrodes; and

a switch configured to series connect the plurality of cells to extract electric power from the series-connected plurality of cells through said pair of first electrodes when

said switch is in a closed state, and configured to electrically separate the plurality of cells from one another to individually access each of the plurality of cells through said pair of second electrodes when said switch is an open state,

wherein said charger comprises a charging/discharging unit which charges and discharges each of the plurality of cells individually through said pair of second electrodes, and

wherein an attaching portion of either said battery or said charger comprises a projection which makes said switch change to the open state from the closed state when said battery is attached to said charger, and said switch changes from the open state to the closed state when said battery is detached from said charger.